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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: December 9, 1968

SUBJECT: United States-Italian Civil Air Negotiations

PARTICIPANTS: General Felice Santini, Director General, Civilavia
Col. Leonide Quercietto, Director of Foreign
Relations, Civilavia
Mr. Salvatore Zotta, Italian Embassy
Mr. John S. Meadows, Director, E/OA
Mr. G. Joseph Minetti, Member, CAB
Mr. E. C. Rodriguez, E/AN

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An informal meeting was held at 11:00 a.m. on December 9, 1968, to exchange views on regular sessions scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. the same day. General Santini said he wanted a businesslike atmosphere during the negotiations with a minimum of philosophical discussion. Because past history had shown that negotiators got hung up early in the talks on major points of difference, he suggested this time the two sides start on less controversial issues and work toward the more difficult ones. He, therefore, proposed that we start discussing the text of the Agreement.

On that subject he said he would like to delete Article 7 on airport charges because Alitalia had a Government exemption under Italian law from paying such charges at the Rome airport. In any event, this matter was covered by the Chicago Convention. He said he would have some other proposals in regard to the text.

He hoped the Delegations could proceed quickly and, if obstacles were encountered, leave major obstacles aside for the moment and move on to other issues. He hoped to conclude all the work during the session and didn't feel a second round was required.

(Drafting Office and Officer)

Mr. Meadows

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Mr. Meadows agreed with General Santini's comments on the desirability of a businesslike approach. He said the US Delegation was prepared to meet morning and afternoon if required. While, in view of the recent Solomon-Ortona discussions, routes might be a logical subject to take up first, the US Delegation was prepared to commence with the text of the Agreement. With respect to the deletion of Article 7, the US Delegation would have to look at this.

E/OA:JSMeadows:vlv
*JSK
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